

Minutes

North Dakota State Trails Task Force

April 29, 2004 – 10 a.m.

North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department
Conference Room
1600 E. Century Ave., Suite 3
Bismarck, ND

Members Present:

Curt Vanek, Lisa Kudelka, Tom Balzer, Doug Peterson (representing ND DOT), Jennifer Morlock, Wayne Beyer, Paul Christianson, Frank Schill and Lee Ann Barnhardt.

Members Absent – Judy Lang, Linda Phelps, and Brian Prince. None submitted their scores.

Updates:

Balzer – Recreation Division Manager for ND Parks and Recreation provided the following updates:

- Staffing – Introduced Lee Ann Barnhardt as the new RTP grant manager and announced that Bob Dvorak will be replacing Dan Schelske as the State Trails Coordinator beginning June 1.
- Status of the master trail plans for the Pembina Gorge area and OHV trail development within the state.
- Asked members to sign a Conflict of Interest Statement that will be kept on file.
- Status of the Federal Highway Bill. Not approved for fiscal year 2004. Operating under continuing resolution, so won't know apportionment for North Dakota until it passes.

Lee Ann Barnhardt – Grant Manager for NDPR provided the following updates:

- Lee Ann Barnhardt brought up the Federal Highway Administration preference that projects be complete within 18 months of award. Committee agreed to consider this while ranking projects.
- Progress reports on grants from prior years. Asked what to do with funds from project under runs. Committee agreed to use it on a FY 2004 project instead of on a proposed project at Ft. Abraham Lincoln State Park.

Discussion:

- The committee reviewed the \$60,000 project cap and agreed to keep it. They also agreed to keep the limit on engineering to no more than 20 percent of the eligible project costs.

- The question was raised about the inspections of trail projects during construction and asked that photos, video or other information be provided when an application comes in for a project that has multiple phases – some of which have been completed. A recommendation from the NDPR staff was requested for these.
- Committee agreed to rank the projects and award them in rank order as RTP funds are available.
- Snowmobile North Dakota equipment plan was discussed, including choice of groomer, maintenance plan, etc. The question of using equipment to groom cross-country ski trails in same trail areas was discussed. Committee suggested looking into ways to share equipment resources.

Grant Awards:

The following projects were ranked and funding is available to award them at this point.

1. NDPR – Roughrider OHV Trail
2. Bismarck/Burleigh County – Lewis and Clark Legacy Trail – Pioneer to Double Ditch
3. City of Mandan – Crying Hill trail system
4. City of Devils Lake – Trails connections to Roosevelt and South Side Parks
5. City of Harvey – Pedestrian/bike path in Centennial Park
6. Little Missouri State Park – Horse corrals, exercise pen

The following projects were ranked and will be awarded when funds are available with the passage of the Highway Bill

1. SND – groomer purchase
2. USDA Forest Service – trail maintenance on Maah Daah Hey/Buffalo Gap Trails
3. Morton County – New Salem trail extension
4. City of Gwinner – Shared used path connecting park to school/sports fields